LUCUBRATIONS,

CIVIL, MORAL,

AND

HISTORICAL.

Whiſtlanteſque ſimul ſightam memorate bloodæam,
Fightam terribilem, quam marvellaverat omnis
Banda Deûm, quoque Nympharum cockelſhelearum—
Quo viſo, ad FIGHTÆ noiſam cecidere volucres,
Ad terram cecidere grues, pliſh plaſhque dedere
Sol gooſæ in pelago prope littora Cornwalliana;
Sea-Sutor obſtupuit, ſummique in margine ſaxi
SCRATCHAVIT præluſtre caput, wingaſque ſlapavit,
Quoque magis, alte volitans heronius ipſe
Ingeminans clig clag mediis ſhitavit in undis.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. EVANS, PATER-NOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXIX.

LUCUBRATIONS,

CIVIL, MORAL,

AND HISTORICAL.

TO THE

BRITISH ADMIRAL,

SIR HUGH PALLISER,

THESE LITTLE CHAPTERS ARE DEDICATED, WITH RESPECT, BY THE AUTHOR.

SIR,

I BEG leave to ask a few queſtions, to deliver a few ſcattered thoughts, and then conclude.

It is to be enquired, what crime did you commit on that memorable affair of July, 1778? Did you by any offence fall under an article of war? Was you the cauſe why the French Fleet was not beaten, taken, or deſtroyed? I aſk theſe queſtions, becauſe I can comprehend nothing diſtinctly from jeſuitical prevarication.

If you committed any crime which was of a nature to require public inveſtigation, judgment

and puniſhment, why in the name of God, in the name of our country, in the name of reaſon and juſtice, was you not brought to a trial immediately upon the arrival of the fleet?

In common law, if a man connives at, or conceals any crime, actually committed in his preſence, ſuch man bears part of the criminal's guilt. How much more ſo ſhould this be the caſe, where the fate of an empire is at ſtake!

Your matter, Sir, is ſaid to have taken place at the moſt important of all public conjunctures—at a period, when the fortune of France and America might have been decided, and the glory of Great Britain upheld with double luſtre!

In ſuch a caſe, away with private conſiderations—away with points of delicacy—in ſuch a caſe, my own father ſhould not have been ſcreened—my honour, my country demanded it.

But, Sir, you fought—you was brave, you behaved with Britiſh gallantry!—How ſhall we reconcile ſuch inconſiſtencies?—By the demon of party faction, that fiend which has coſt England

land ſo much blood and treaſure?—Or, by what, I ſay, ſhall we reconcile them?

As to a brave man's being alledged to poſſeſs a malicious heart, and an unforgiving temper, 'tis nought to me—'tis nothing to the world—theſe are private vices which hurt the poſſeſſor only, and render him unpleaſing in ſocial life—this man in a public ſphere of action will fight—he will do more—he will conquer!—In office, he will be inflexible, ſtrenuous, and collected—ſuch a man will ſerve his country—if he attempts oppreſſion, if he would be a tyrant, it cannot be—for this, my friends, is *Britain*, where no ſlaves reſide!

Sir, I have not the honour to know you perſonally; but, I well know, that with your foibles you have many virtues—you have Roman virtues!—You have great profeſſional abilities—and were you ſet off a little by the graces, and endowed with that neceſſary diſſimulation, ſimulation, court grimace, and grining art of pleaſing clients, I would make a miniſter

of

of thee! Thou ſhouldeſt ſeize the helm—and convince the world, that one head was, for once, as good as two.

If Sir Hugh Palliſer, vice admiral of the blue, under the command of the honourable admiral Keppel, had ſo acted, on the day of engagement, as to have been the cauſe of bringing diſgrace upon the Britiſh flag, he had enemies enough to publiſh it to the world, in the moſt circumſtantial manner, upon the arrival of the fleet—and had he ſo acted, as to have been the cauſe, why compleat victory was not ours, no influence could have prevented the hiſtory of ſuch an event to be publiſhed in the gazette.

I could ſay much more; but the taſk would ſeem invidious—what I have advanced, are the ſentiments of an impartial man—one who has no ſiniſter views—no illiberal expectations, and who has nothing at heart more than juſtice to all men, and the good of his country—totally uninfluenced by any damnable faction whatever.

That

That your country, Sir—your country for which you fought; for which you would have died like a Roman, on that memorable day, had it ſo pleaſed the God of battles—that your country, I ſay, may throw a veil over the paſt, that debaſing, that ungenerous paſt! And, that you may live to be claſſed with the illuſtrious Admirals, is the wiſh of,

SIR,

The AUTHOR.

CHAPTER I

On Cruelty to Horses.

I would be nothing recluse, to ad-
vance any apology for what I am
about to lay in this chapter. I consider
the subject of it to be of more importance
in the practice of life, than even a System
of metaphysics. The AUTHOR.

Yesterday, the tear of sympathy trickled
down my cheek; and I was at once ar-
rested with rage and compassion.

In going from London to Rochester, I
saw a poor horse drop down in his harness, as
soon as the chaise he had dragged, stop at a
public house. The poor animal was de-
prived of all his faculties in an instan—
he just gave one last groan—fixed his eyes
upon me, and expired. Melancholy be-
reft

CHAPTER I.

On Cruelty to Horſes.

IT would be inſulting reaſon, to advance any apology for what I am about to ſay in this chapter. I conſider the ſubject of it to be of more importance in the practice of life, than even a ſyſtem of metaphyſics.

Yeſterday, the tear of ſympathy trickled down my cheek; and I was at once affected with rage and compaſſion.

In going from London to Rocheſter, I ſaw a poor horſe drop down in his harneſs, as ſoon as the chaiſe he had dragged, ſtopt at a public houſe. The poor animal was deprived of all his faculties in an inſtant—he juſt gave one ſad groan—fixed his eyes upon me, and expired. Methought, he

wiſhed I would ſay a few words in behalf of his fellow brutes.

I learnt he had been at Coxheath, and had been barbarouſly drove, night and day, for weeks before. By the Almighty Power that made us both, I will take your part—ſo fare thee well, thou honeſt, harmleſs, ill-fated beaſt!

To the man of feeling, the man poſſeſſed of that amiable principle, which is rouſed by all ſcenes of woe and diſtreſs, what can be more noble, more exalted, more god-like, than to befriend a poor paſſive ſuffering animal, in a ſtate of pain, and exhauſted by labour and cruel fatigue? I have ever held it a maxim, that the man, who is inſenſible at the ſufferings of a brute, is a dangerous member to ſociety —Such a man will murder, and ſmile at the bloody dagger. Indeed, I cannot deſcribe the character I form of a man without ſympathy—If I did not know there

were

were ſuch beings, I would almoſt call the man a liar, who ſaid there was ſuch a monſter in human ſhape. Sympathy! thou lovely characteriſtic of humanity, without thee, man is a devil

Gracious God! how I have been enraged to ſee two poor horſes dragging up a ſteep hill, and the driver cutting and ſcarifying them with whip and ſpur—Could they but have ſaid, "Alas! we are ſpent—we can drag no more—wherefore, O thou tyrant of creation, have mercy upon us, poor brutes!"

The driver is often bribed to commit this cruelty, in order to quicken the journey; but it aſtoniſhes me, that gentlemen can be ſo preſſed, ſo loſt in buſineſs and pleaſure, as to forget they are human creatures—and ſwear at ſome good poſt boys for not driving faſter, when the poor horſes are hardly able to walk.

Ye gentle ſex! ye who are fitted for tender-

tenderneſs and love—whoſe care and benevolence extend to all creatures, be advocates for horſes. Happy ſex—God bleſs thee!

It often happens, that a pair of horſes ſhall have juſt arrived from a ſad flogging, laceration, and friction, of forty miles; when a gentleman, perhaps a man of tender diſpoſition, comes to the Inn, and ſays, "get me a chaiſe immediately." The maſter of the inn, who may have no other horſes unengaged, will naturally ſay, (one would imagine) Sir, I cannot do it—my horſes are all out except two, which are juſt come in from a very fatiguing journey; wherefore (becauſe of humanity and my own intereſt) I cannot ſerve you. Such a gentleman will be ſatisfied—and go elſewhere. But, had the ſame perſon been an enormity of nature, he would inſiſt on having theſe very horſes—

So

So away they go—drag, drag, drag, *poor souls*, and die!

O Moſt merciful God, grant that one of thy creatures may approach the MAJESTY of creation, with a humble ſupplication, that he may be ever reſtrained from doing violence to any one of his fellow animals; particularly to thoſe, whoſe toil and labour demand the friendſhip, the protection of man: and, O Lord, may it be his happy lot to trace out all ſcenes of oppreſſion, and be able to redreſs and adminiſter comfort to the afflicted. May men and brutes rejoice in thy name—and, O may they be grateful!

CHAP. II.

How the Boſtonians treated the Tea.

IT was ſo managed, and ordered, that a ſhip was diſpatched from London to Boſton, loaded with that precious exhilarating

larating dried vegetable, called *Tea*. The Boſtonians, *alias* the Yankies, hearing the news of ſuch an alarming proceeding, aſſembled in wild multitudes, and with great wrath and indignation, *et ſans ceremonie*, unloaded the ſhip—and, in a very unchemiſt like manner, adopted ſalt water for the menſtruum, and Boſton harbour for the tea pot—juſtly obſerving, they had no menſtruum ſo convenient—nor tea pot ſo ſuitable, and ſupported their conduct by aſſerting, that firſt experiments are always defective and cenſurable.

CHAP. III.

Cruelty to Horſes, &c. continued.

IT appears very rational, and conſequently neceſſary, to ſay a few words on the propriety of the operations of amputation and caſtration, as performed upon

upon brutes: and by way of preliminary, let us enquire whether God Almighty, the Creator of all things, has not made a miſtake in forming horſes, bulls, dogs, &c. with tails, and the eſſential organs of generation. From our practice it would appear he has erred; otherwiſe, we never could be ſo cruel and ridiculous, as to amputate tails, and extirpate teſticles. A tail is not only the nobleſt ornament of a horſe, but eſſentially uſeful in defending his body from the attacks of various inſects, which torment him in the ſummer months. To cut off a horſe's tail to make him look *handſome*, exhibits ſuch a rudeneſs, ſuch a barbarity of taſte, that I wonder a poliſhed people ſhould not be aſhamed of it.*

As

* Further, as we cannot avoid caſting our eyes on their poſteriors from carriages, &c. decency demands a veil to be thrown over the delicacy and private operations of nature—and ſurely our invention cannot contrive a more proper, a more graceful one, than that which nature has beſtowed.

As to extirpating of teſticles, I confeſs I really know not what to ſay—it ſurpaſſes my invention to adduce a reaſon in favour of it.—To put, at once, a ſtop to propagation by depriving a noble animal of all its vigorous ſtrength and male ſpirit—reducing it to a ſtate of imbecility and effeminate gentleneſs, is ſuch an affront to reaſon, I am aſhamed to have occaſion even to mention it.

CHAP. IV.

How the Yankies ſerved the Cuſtomhouſe Officers.

THE Americans, like true born Engliſhmen, and as ſtubborn as a Welſh goat or jackaſs, ſwore and declared they would not be forced to drink tea, by this new inſtitution. The king's officers remonſtrated, and began to put in execution, the formal powers of compulſion.

The

The Yankies eſteeming this conduct rather a breach of perfect civility, grew warm, enthuſiaſtical and rebellious. They made an aſſault upon the poor cuſtom gatherers (one half of which was drunk) ſome eſcaped by flight, and others were ſeized. They were ſtript, an adheſive balſam was applied to their ſurfaces—they were rolled in feathers, and then let looſe, amidſt the ſhouts and acclamations of an applauding multitude.

The hiſtory of this manœuvre was ſoon over all the colonies, meetings and aſſemblies were held in various parts, in various manners, for various purpoſes, and the reſults were various alſo.

The predominant reſolution, however, was (it ſpread like wild fire and peſtilence) they ſhould not be taxed—they ſhould be free—they ſhould be independent!

CHAP. V.

How they proceeded in the Houſe.

NEWS being brought to the two houſes in England, of this moſt mutinous proceeding—it was reſolved, *nem. con.* to block up their ports—and terrify them with a few invalids from Chelſea. L. declared and demonſtrated publickly and auricularly it would anſwer. He had been in America, he knew the temper of the people, and had been at the ſhooting and ſcalping of ſome hundreds of Frenchmen.

Upon this a debate aroſe, ſome ſaid he was miſtaken, others coincided—others ſaid yes—others no—without knowing what the ſubject was. * A few roſe to convince the

* Men of virtue, honor, knowledge and experience were ſilent.

the houſe they had abilities for the ſtage. There was alſo a ſtrong party, who from family quarrels—perſonal animoſities—diſappointments, and pride, obliquely hinted, they did not want courage to box, fire a piſtol, or draw a ſword. The houſe being thus in repulſion, adjourned, being unanimouſly, however, reſolved upon the neceſſity of checking the circulation of ſedition, and extirpating every Embryo of Rebellion.

CHAP. VI.

How they went on in the Houſe, continued.

THE houſe being again conſtituted to conſider of American buſineſs—ſeveral out-lines, of neceſſary meaſures, were drawn—they were all rubbed out.

A certain member had a plan in his head, but he kept it there—he was afraid

of

of a few bullies that fronted him. It was in ſubſtance, not to adminiſter palliative, but *active* medicines—ſuch as emetics, cathartics, ſudorifics, Sinapiſms, bliſters, ſcarifications and cupping.——That the ſecond indication of cure ſhould conſiſt of opiates, and the third, and laſt, of aſtringents, with a nouriſhing diet. The houſe roſe with a reſolution to treat them as tenderly as children.

CHAP. VII.

How the Americans were indefatigable, &c.

IN the meantime the Americans equipped and formed a fleet of privateers, and ſeized upon the property of their fellow ſubjects by ſea; by land they were aſſiduous, they were induſtrious---they accumulated warlike ſtores—they col-

collected an army—they formed ſecret alliances in Great Britain, and with the maritime powers of Europe, who ſupplied their wants—and all theſe tranſactions occurred while the members of adminiſtration were indulging themſelves in that pleaſing ſtate, which excludes time, and takes place in bed, on a cold morning, when one is in the medium between ſleep and watchfulneſs, unwilling to turn out.

The Americans carried on as they had ever done, a ſucceſsful trade with Spaniſh America, the French iſlands, the Daniſh, the Dutch, the Engliſh.——They ſupplied themſelves with powder, ſhot, cannon, *good* flints, in ſhort, with all the offenſive, and defenſive, inſtruments of war. They acted like philoſophers; they conſidered the paſt, they made uſe of the preſent, and provided for the conſequences and events of the future.

We,

We, on the reverſe, perfectly knew the nature, temper, diſpoſitions, and intentions of the Colonies. But we deſpiſed their enterprize, their ability, their power, their petitions. We held them cheap, we looked upon them as a ſet of ſchool-boys, that tremble at the ſight of the ferrula. Wherefore, we acted juſt like a village nurſe, adopted yea and nay meaſures, and ſupported the rectitude of this ſyſtem of action by puritanical, canting orations, on moderation and moral mercy.*

CHAP.

* In ſhort, the B——ſh Senate appeared to me at this time like a diſputing club; where one finds a number of prattling coxcombs, with a little wit, and no underſtanding; with this difference, the diſputing club meets to purſue real knowledge, and the diſcovery of truth—to indulge a little ſilly, pedantic vanity, in oppoſing and cutting one another, without any ſiniſter view. Whereas, in the Houſe above, you will find ſeveral members, who have been candidates for

CHAP. VIII.

What the M——y did, and how they were diſappointed.

NEVER hold any enemy in a deſpicable light—look upon him as a Roman, and arm yourſelf accordingly.

Ad———n at laſt tranſported troops—Frigates, &c. were alſo ſent in abundance, and it was expected all would be over by the return of the packet. There were able officers in the army—the troops were pretty well ſupplied—the navy was well manned and found—and the commanding officer, it was ſuppoſed, would do honor to the truſt repoſed in him.

It

for certain lifts in the Court Kallendar, and being diſappointed, have commenced bullies.

It was, however, found, that America ſtill carried on a trade—that the climate was boiſterous—that men of war were not ſufficiently numerous—that commanding officers with equivocal orders—American wives and plantation property, like Mahomet's coffin, hung in vacuum between heaven and hell, in heſitation whether to riſe or fall——in ſhort, that a handful of troops could not conquer America.

O America! why wert thou invaded? thy natural ſons, thy ſavages would have honored Britannia—her own Colonies have diſgraced her.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX

The M——y alarmed---begin to be ſerious.

WE now began to find the American buſineſs required a more ſerious attention. We found, they could and would fight—We found, they had ſtill Britiſh blood in their veins, and courage in their hearts—We found, they had ſpirit —we found *that* ſpirit felt an injury— Their induſtry and proceedings were wonderful—their privateers moleſted our commerce—their military expeditions embarraſſed our commanders, and alarmed our miniſters, who had not only an American Rebellion to contend with; but alſo a powerful faction at home, which has been the principal cauſe of our ill ſucceſs. Some were for peace—others for war—The latter prevailed—large ſupplies were granted —foreign troops hinted at—immenſe quantities of all kind of ſtores, with plenty of

ſour crout, were ſent over. Contracts, Contractors, Commiſſioners, Commiſſariates, with a variety of other appointments, ſweated the public purſe. But there remained one conſolation, the Jeſuitical prevaricating Court of France aſſure us, it held rebellion in a deteſtable light, and would not interfere, nor aſſiſt the Rebels. We, being Engliſhmen, believed it.—The French thruſt their tongues in their cheeks.

CHAP. X.

Of American Cunning, &c.

THE Americans knew what they were about from the firſt—they knew they were the ſubjects of Great Britain, and that they were, by civil and natural inſtitution, to ſubmit to legiſlative authority, and contribute to the public expence, as well as any Iriſhman, Engliſhman, or Scotchman: they knew, that the

the Atlantic Ocean was no reaſon why they ſhould be exempted from a rational taxation—they knew, that to put the liberty of civilized man in competition with that of a quadruped, was abſurd—they knew, there could be no ſociety, no government, without ſubordination and obedience to the laws and authority of a juſt and wiſe Adminiſtration—they knew, that oppreſſion and tyranny could never exiſt, while the beſt of conſtitutions remained unaltered——they knew, that the greateſt glory of a Britiſh heart is, to ſuccour the oppreſſed, and puniſh the tyrant——they knew, that GEORGE III. was a virtuous man, and a good king!——they knew, that certain men in power, had acted wrong, perhaps not from principle. But the Americans did not know how to remedy their grievances, as men deſcended from a famous, illuſtrious, and god-like race. America

wanted

wanted to be free; and by perſevering in this inglorious deſign, ſhe has plunged herſelf into infamy and ingratitude.

CHAP. XI.

Of Human Brutes.

AMONG the *dramatis perſonæ* of public action, we too often meet with diſguſting characters—beings, who ſeem to have been created for themſelves—outcaſts of nature! banes to domeſtic feſtivity, and emetics to the public; whoſe gloomy ſouls can reliſh no delight, and whoſe callous hearts, like adamant, repulſe the groans of miſery. O Nature! ſurely ſuch monſters were never formed by thy gentle hand——Did Saturn ever void upon this earth?—perhaps he did—then, as putrefaction generates, they have ariſen from the excrement. O may they

be

be barren as mules, and may the breed ſuddenly periſh!

CHAP. XII.

Bunker's-hill.

THE hiſtory of Bunker's-hill affair at laſt arrived; upon which ſome were elated, ſome were depreſſed—— but America was not yet conquered. The rebels murdered many brave men in the ſtreets, from the windows of their houſes, and converted the temples devoted to the worſhip of God, into ſhambles and ſeats of cowardly aſſaſſination. It is ſaid, on our part, we were badly prepared—there were few cartridges filled for cannon, and the caliber of the cylinder did not agree with that of the ſhot.—That the G———l was ſmoking a ſegaar—and the A———l expoſtulating

ting on the virtues of Callebogus, and the profits ariſing on ſpruce beer.

CHAP. XIII.

A Prayer.

GRANT, O Lord, we may be juſt and virtuous, and merciful—may we be guided and reſtrained by that divine Something in the mind, which whiſpers to the conſcience in acts of evil tendency: and, O Lord, may thy creatures enjoy, and be deſerving of, thy bleſſings and bountiful mercies. In the execution of the truſt repoſed in us, may we ever advert to the neceſſary weakneſs of a finite being: and may our pride and ambition be checked, and humbled by reflections upon the circumſcribed faculties of a human creature. Yet, O moſt infinite Majeſty! may we, at the ſame time, be poſſeſſed of

thoſe

thoſe noble qualities, that render man a wonder to himſelf, and ſomething more than human among his fellow creatures—Courage led on by prudence—juſtice conducted by mercy—genius, ſpirit, and knowledge, adorned by virtue, free and untainted by illiberal ambition and ſullen pride; above all, unconnected with that diſguſting ſelf conſequence, which cannot brook ſuperiority——Fortitude, tempered by gentle ſubmiſſion—a heart, that melts with manly ſympathy at another's woe——a ſoul bleſſed with magnanimous reſignation to the ſad and unforeſeen events of Providence—to ſet off the whole a grateful adoration of the ſupreme Being—and a religion, founded upon truth and philoſophy.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Canada, and Saratoga.

AT that ſeaſon of the year which froſt-bites, the Americans like brave but raſh ſons of nature, got over the mountains, thro' woods and over the bogs of Nova Scotia, &c. and paid a viſit to Canada.—They had the province in poſſeſſion all but Quebec—which they had nearly taken. The Surprize arrived—and they began to ſcamper—Engliſhmen, Iriſhmen, Scotchmen, Welchmen, Frenchmen and Heſſians drove them back into their woods and fields—Burgoyne followed them—the brave, the gallant, the unfortunate Burgoyne was ſurrounded—he capitulated—and his choſen army ſent to Boſton—alas! Burgoyne, thy expedition was like unto a pilgrim's progreſs.——I ſaw thee off the falls of Montmorency, thou hadſt juſt come

come up from a repaſt and as thou walkedſt the deck, thy name and figure claimed reſpect and veneration.

CHAP. XV.

How the Dutch ſhould be imitated by a Miniſter.

IF I was appointed firſt miniſter of a commercial kingdom, the firſt thing I ſet about, would be, to take a few leſſons from the Dutch. The conduct, the ſyſtem, the method of their High Mightineſſes, deſerve particular attention; for, like Falſtaff, they point with deriſion to the ſpot where honor falls. The Dutch, my friends, are philoſophers—they laugh at Mars, and call his father Jupiter an aſs——his mother Juno an inceſtuous whore; and they ſcruple not to ſay, that

Heaven and Earth never did cohabit; conſequently Saturn was an impoſtor.

CHAP. XVI.

How the Americans were ſucceſsful.

THE Americans had many advantages, we were neceſſarily unfurniſhed with and under this head, I might conclude the chapter, by ſaying, they were at home: but, by way of illuſtration——They were engaged in an enterprize that ſprung from the heart of almoſt every individual: hence it was ſupported by unanimity; but their zeal was immoderate and enthuſiaſtical. They were ſupplied with all ſorts of wholeſome proviſions in abundance, and they had liquor and wine, which cheer the heart of man. They were better acquainted with the woods than us, and under-

underſtood buſh-fighting pretty well from their long practice of killing game. They are excellent markſmen; and the muſquettoes ſcorned to bite them. Their warlike ſtores were, in general, good—and, ſome how or other, they had them cheap; above all, they could depend upon their *flints*: hence, they had never any uſeleſs men. Being engaged in a common cauſe, their diſcipline did not require rigidity, nor threats of corporal pain, conſequently their ſpirit was not damped; and they bore diſtreſs like champions of the Holy War. Their wives, their little ones, were with them—they looked around—tears were in their eyes—they ſaid, "let us defend our country!"

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

How we blundered at Home.

A Sort of witch-craft and magic affected us at home—we were for lenient meaſures with a mad bear and an over driven bull—the bear and the bull toſſed us into the kennel, and we got up all beſmear'd with mud, black eyes, and bloody noſes—from ſuch uncouth treatment, we began too late to recollect we were Engliſhmen, and threatened perdition to the foe. We laid traps in various places, but ſome how the ſprings of theſe machines being weak and ill tempered, the prey got off unhurt. Upon the ill ſucceſs of ſuch manœuvres, a great and tumultuous noiſe enſued—ſome laid all the blame upon the traps—others demonſtrated the traps to be innocent, and called the workman a bungling fellow—that he had

had expended a deal of metal to no purpoſe, hammering it into ſhivers, whereby it loſt all its malleability and cohæſion. The workman, on the other hand, pleaded innocence by ſwearing he had hammered with the beſt hammer in his ſhop, but confeſſed it was a hammer by no means fit for forging—that the anvil was too hard, and the block ſadly ſhaken and ſplit; ſo that, inſtead of hammering at right angles, as he would have done, he was compelled to ſtrike his object with oblique and indirect percuſſions, whereby he acknowledged there was an unavoidable defection.

CHAP. XVIII.

Scene—The Bedchamber.

Two o'clock, A. M.

THE enemy! the enemy!

—— Who dares to enter my chamber before the cock?

—— St. George!—the enemy, Sir! the enemy.

—— The enemy!—a horſe, my commiſſion for a horſe!

—— Dear general! how can you be ſo cruel? now, don't get up, pox take the fellows!

—— My love!—God bleſs you! I muſt—damn the enemy—hola!—where are the officers!

—— All aſleep, may it pleaſe your honor, they have drank—your excellency—four bottles a man—and their ladies,—your honor.——

By this time, the detachment, ladies and all, were priſoners of war.

Accurs'd be women and wine!—ſaid the general,

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

As how Forts are built.

THERE was a ſurplus of the ſupply—and it was rather difficult to expend it—luckily an engineer, a fat colonel, ſtept in and made it appear to be highly neceſſary a fort ſhould be built juſt upon the flat neck, to command the entrance of the harbour.—Orders were given the ſaid fort ſhould be immediately erected: the engineer on his part made no delay—he arrived at the deſtined place—and compleated a very ſtrong fortification—when he came to draw the outline of the glacis, he accidentally caſt his eye upon the ſurrounding land—and ſtood agaſt. There was a high commanding ground, not a quarter of a mile from the famous fort—He found that an enemy with two battering cannon only, would ſoon ſend him, the garriſon,

garriſon, baſtions and all to the devil—The fort was abandoned—and the ſurplus expended; upon this occaſion, 'tis ſaid, many had a ſolid feeling.——Reach me that ſnuff box——!

CHAP. XX.

Moral Reflection.

THE different affairs of Long Iſland, New York, Rhode Iſland, Philadelphia, and a variety of other ſkirmiſhes, did honor to brave officers and ſoldiers, and ſtrengthened the words of Job, where he ſays, "man that is born of a woman hath but a ſhort time to live, and is full of miſery. He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower, he fleeth as it were a ſhadow, and never continueth in one ſtay,"—but they all tended to confute and overturn the ſweet and rational doctrine of our

Lord

Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, "bleſſed are the peace makers."

The tears of widows and orphans tarniſh triumphs, ſtain the laurels of victory, and convince us that nature, religion, law, learning and knowledge, are mere non-entities, when mankind are mad with that ambition, which can only be ſatiated by another's property—*i. e.* where intereſt is concerned, integrity, juſtice, mercy, honour and virtuous principles are ſent to the devil.——— particularly by Chriſtians and men of ſenſe and underſtanding.

CHAP. XXI.

How one ſhould think for one's ſelf.

I Have often wondered at my own ignorance, in matters apparently ſimple. I would aſk what was meant by ſuch a thing, and the anſwer ſeemed plauſible to

an ignorant man—I would aſk a ſecond perſon what the ſame thing meant, and his anſwer was as different from the firſt, as a triangle is from a circle. I would aſk a third, and his anſwer was pompous and incomprehenſible. I would pauſe—not knowing which way to incline—at laſt I began to think for myſelf, and define things as they appeared to my own eye. I was deceived even by this natural method, for I could ſeldom meet with any body, who thought as I did—ſome ſaid I was an odd fellow—others, I had not read the ancients—and others, that I had certainly never been at Cambridge nor Oxford, conſequently I muſt be ignorant, and know nothing at all of the world. In reply—I uſed to take a pinch of ſnuff, ſometimes unguardedly, blow my noſe, and abſolutely found it all for the beſt to think for one's ſelf.

I beg leave to be a little particular on this

this ſubject of acquiring truth by ſelf reaſoning, and ſpontaneous conception. There was nothing for a conſiderable time puzzled me more, than to underſtand what was meant by *politics*; I uſed to ſtart, and ſometimes ſtare at the word politics.—Politics!—ſaid I—what ſcience is that? is it metaphyſical, mathematical, philoſophical, ſynthetical, or magical?—is it a ſcience adapted to the power of the human ſenſorium? or, is it a ſcience of deceit and hypocricy reduced to the capacity of knaves and raſcals?

I had juſt read a few pages of the miſcellaneous works of that able and learned man my Lord Bolinbroke—when accidentally I laid my hand on a ſyſtem of chymiſtry, I opened the book, and the firſt thing which drew my attention was a chapter on relations and affinities of bodies —*relations and affinities of bodies!*—ſaid I—ſure, this is not politics—the very thing, Sir—the very thing itſelf: and thus did I

go

go on to form an idea and definition of politics.

1ſt. I found that if two courts have a conformity, an affinity, a relation, an attraction, they will unite together for mutual defence and advantage.

2dly. that ſimilar governments have an affinity with each other, and ſimilar ſentiments.

3dly. That courts thus united loſe ſome of their characteriſtic properties—and the new alliance will partake of the qualities of both.

4thly. If two governments or conſtitutions are ſimple their principles and affinities will be more perceptible, and it will conſequently be a dangerous and difficult taſk to cauſe a rebellion and ſeparation between them.

5thly. If two powers are united (as England and America) and a third power (as France) preſents itſelf, having a greater attraction for America, than

America

America has for England, then a diſunion and decompoſition will take place; and a new union will be formed,—that is, America ſhakes off England, and unites with France—and thus Old England is left in a worſe condition than before.

6thly. But, here I am puzzled—It happens that a third power preſenting itſelf to an alliance, no diſunion ſhall occur; on the contrary, the two powers in friendſhip ſhall unite with the third power, and thus form a triple league, or confederacy, by reaſon of the third power having an equal affinity with each of the powers in alliance.

7thly. It alſo happens that a third power may not have influence of itſelf to form a combination with the aforeſaid alliance, but being joined with another power, they ruſh in, and a double diſunion, and double combination may enſue—or *vice verſa*.

8thly, And laſtly, I define politics, a cunning ſcience regulated by intereſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

The Supper.

TWO thirds of the officers of the army and navy are not familiar with great men; conſequently, it is not a miracle, if they condemn manœuvres of the cabinet or bureau. When a young man is tranſlated from a pariſh ſchool, or Oxford, to a place of rank in the army—and is exhilarated after a good dinner by martial enthuſiaſm and the operations of a few glaſſes of good port, he will (innocently) talk of the firſt miniſter or ſecretary of war, with as much freedom. as if he had been a general twenty years.—This is all nothing; but when an old officer of experience, ſhall ſay, Sir, the m——r alone is to be blamed—I confeſs, I know not what to reply.

I ſpent an evening lately with ſome officers

ficers of conſiderable rank—men of liberal breeding, digeſted learning, and great ability. The ſupper conſiſted of a variety of fiddle faddles and diddle daddles, our hoſt being a man of faſhion—for my own part, I only eat a tart, a bit of bread and cheeſe, and drank about a pint of porter. During ſupper we indulged in that neceſſary ſuperficial nonſenſe, which pleaſes ladies, and veils our proper characters. The apparatus of ſupper being removed, and the ladies retired, the bottle was brought, and each man took his glaſs---One thing leads to another, and a company of the ſame profeſſion, will naturally converſe upon what concerns it. A certain unſucceſsful expedition was the ſubject matter for a conſiderable time. An old officer who had not ſaid a word, at laſt got up—and with great warmth, expreſſed his reſentment at the conduct of a certain miniſter. ——His ſpeech, his veteran figure, his grey

grey head, his patriotic tears, made Romans of us--and we all agreed he had been ungenerouſly treated.—— The concluſion was, that an expedition in theory may do honor to a miniſter, if he truſts to the wiſdom and ſkill of a general to reduce it to practice. If a miniſter is a prophet, and has future events ſucceſſively arranged, and methodized before him, then the foregoing remark is of no uſe. But, as a knowledge of futurity, implies a knowledge of things not exiſting, it is plain a miniſter muſt be mad (or worſe) who gives poſitive orders for the execution of an expedition only exiſting in his own brain. There is what we call probability, and by its gradation, we may form conjectures; but, conjectures are very remote from truth.—Hence, it appears ridiculous to ſuppoſe that a m———r would give poſitive orders in any expedition whatever—every commander in chief ought to be inveſted with diſcretionary power.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

France and the Congreſs.

THE Congreſs and the Court of France attracted one another, and ratified an eventual and defenſive treaty. Louis the Sixteenth, for his own part cared not a fig for his *very dear great friends and allies*; but the view of extending the commerce of his ſubjects, and enriching his kingdom, were reaſons not to be put in competition with the ridiculous opinion of the world, in reſpect to his breach of faith and honor, and his conduct all along in encouraging rebellion, and thoſe principles which put an end to civil government and ſubordination—He equipped a fleet, and ſent it from Toulon, under the command of D'Eſtaign, which arrived ſafe in America, and would have

played the very devil with our force there had not Providence very ſeaſonably ſtept in, and took up our cauſe; while, at home, we were in warm inveſtigation about the probability whether France meant, or meant not, to form an alliance, and ſend a fleet from Toulon?

CHAP. XXIV.

The Navy Surgeon's Bill rejected.

THE Houſe being in a vortex, gravitation ſeized each member, and ſettled a committee. Evaporation took place in the cranium, and the *ſenſorium commune* was cleared of all volatility and chimerical phantoms; nothing remained in the ſeat of underſtanding, but fixed and ſolid agents. The ſubject to be conſidered, inveſtigated, and reported, was one that will do immortal honor to the noble Lord

who

who framed the bill—namely, "a bill for rational encouragement to his Majesty's naval surgeons; and to prevent the iniquity and mal-practices attending the ideal pension granted to their widows."

L—— rose, and with his usual ability, and all the pathos of utterance, melted the heart of every member into compassion. He made it appear, that surgeons of men of war, at present, were mere instruments of convenience to their country—that their pay was neither adequate to their education, nor the importance of their profession—that in consequence thereof, there were many surgeons upon the list, in whose hands he would not trust even his horse or dog. He was sorry, he said, to remark so melancholy a truth: and, hoped, by the present bill, that men of science and digested experience would be invited into the service—He continued, and said, that surgeons were even treated with

ingratitude

ingratitude and inhumanity, by reaſon of their having no half-pay, till they have ſerved a number of years. Suppoſe, ſaid he, in conſequence of peace, two thirds of the men of war, now in commiſſion, are paid off, what is to become of one half of theſe ſurgeons? Not one of them is entitled to half-pay, and the greater part unavoidably in debt to agents——I aſk, what is to become of them? why, they are in a more deplorable condition, than beggars or labourers.

In reſpect to their widows, he had only to obſerve, they were to be ſuppoſed gentlewomen by birth; and was ſorry to ſay, they were upon the ſame footing as the widows of boatſwains and carpenters; ſome diſtinction, he ſaid, ſhould be made—for he knew many boatſwain's wives, that had been married from the back of Portſmouth Point, and other common infamous houſes—he ſaid, he did not mean

at

at the ſame time, to offend the boatſwain or the carpenter, he knew many of them to be worthy and uſeful men in their ſtations; but begged to obſerve, that the ſurgeon was a gentleman by profeſſion, and as ſuch, merited the protection of the Houſe, for himſelf, and for his widow and children. The bill was damned by a majority of three hundred to one.

The order of the day being read, Lord — made a motion, (not a ſtool) to grant a penſion of 10,000l. *per ann.* (till the race ſhould be extinct) to a man he ſaid, mentioning his name, that had done eminent ſervices to his country.

L—— roſe, and ſaid, the perſon pointed out for a penſion, deſerved a halter—that he had enriched himſelf in the ſervice of the ſtate, and raiſed his relations from dung-hills—that the eminent ſervices alluded to, were ſervices of bloodſhed, butchery, and devaſtation. Services that

had

had made the empire a bankrupt, and left none to protect it but wailing widows and ſtarving orphans—wherefore, he was againſt the motion; and ſwore, it was a motion replete with inſult and iniquity!

L— roſe, and obſerved, he ſaw no occaſion, to grant penſions, to ſuch as could ſupport themſelves by their own private fortunes.

L—— roſe next, and ſaid, he would always proteſt againſt giving a place or penſion to any man, whoſe ſalary in office had been great beyond the powers of the ſtate.

Mr. ——— roſe next, and ſaid, he wiſhed their Lordſhips would advert to the ſtate of the nation, and the expence of war—and informed the houſe, he intended to make a motion, to inveſtigate the enormous ſum of public money ſquandered away in penſions and ſinecures, to ſupport, too often, profligacy and luxury: he begged to be underſtood, he did

not

not mean to aboliſh all penſions and ſinecures—he deſired to diminiſh their number, and curtail the ſums; and ſaid, he would take care for the future, that the objects of ſtate charity ſhould be characters that merited the grateful protection of their country. Show me the man, ſaid he, that has bled for me in the field of battle?—the man that has long ſtruggled in various climes, with the elements and adverſe fortune, in the ſervice of his country!—Shew me virtue in diſtreſs!—Shew me a Belliſarius!——ſaid he——my purſe and table ſhall be common property! Theſe are the objects for the exerciſe of your benevolence, your compaſſion, and your gratitude.

L—— roſe to reply, and ſaid, he apprehended, the gentleman that ſpoke laſt, was, by no means, a courtier nor a man of faſhion; he was alarmed to hear a member talk ſo vulgarly, and conceived,

he

he was fitter for a methodiſt preacher, than a modern ſenator—he was ſure, he added, the man had never been at *Paris*, *ni a Verſailles*—he had paid minute attention, he ſaid, with his opera glaſs, to the man's mode of taking ſnuff, and obſerved, he did it with a ſlovenly and taylor-like air—he was alſo pretty certain, the gentleman did not perfume himſelf *comme il faut*, and begged the perſon who ſat next to him, would be ſo kind as to ſmell his wig, as he alledged it was powdered with unſcented hair powder; and moved, if it was really the caſe, that he ſhould be publickly repremanded by the Speaker, for his great diſrepect to this Houſe, by reaſon of his unperfumed and unſcented preſence.

Mr. ——— roſe again, to ſay a few words by way of replication—and begged the indulgence of the Houſe, to produce the beſt ſyſtem on Zoology, to trace what

what ſpecies of animals his traducer belonged to—he ſaid, he thought he was perfectly acquainted with the baboon race; but found himſelf in an error, and acknowledged, he never knew till then, that any one of that ſpecies was endowed with the gift of articulation—he ſuppoſed, the creature had been but lately brought over; and made great allowance for its want of official decorum—freely forgave what had paſſed—and congratulated the Houſe on the great probability of ſucceſs to Britain, when even the monkey breed had taken up her cauſe. This altercation being ended, a few arguments enſued, concerning the original motion, and the gentleman got his penſion.

CHAP. XXV.

How Heads proved as bad as Arms.

WE made ſuch a bungling piece of buſineſs of the American affair by the dint of arms, that we found it neceſſary to try what *Heads* would do. Accordingly, three Commiſſioners, a Secretary, &c. were diſpatched with ample power to treat with Congreſs, and the principal men of the United States. They aſſured Congreſs, America might act as ſhe pleaſed, provided they would reſcind their reſolutions and chimerical ambition, for that logical ſtate, called Independence—— Provided, ſecondly, they would once more be combined in the ſame intereſt as Engliſhmen, Welſhmen, Scotchmen, and Iriſhmen, and make ſuch contributions to the Treaſury, as might

might be convenient to themſelves, and ſuitable to ſupport a mutual defence.

The Congreſs was as firm, as ſtubborn as Cato! it was inſolent—it laughed at their Excellencies.

The Commiſſioners came home!—ſafe—they had each——— *per diem*. Alas! poor Old England!

CHAP. XXVI.

The Bay of Biſcay.

OUR fleet at laſt ſailed for the Bay, in queſt of the French—our fleet, I ſay, ſailed—a fleet, manœuvered, diſciplined, well manned, and officered— a fleet, I ſay again, which, on the 27th of July, 1778, was powerful, and juſtly dreaded by the French——With ſuch a fleet, Britannia! thy annals prove it, thou haſt made Europe ſhake, and kept the world

world in awe!—— Sacred be the names of thy brave Admirals—thy Admirals, that fought, that bled for thee—Yes, thy Admirals, that knew no party—no intereſt ſo dear as the protection of their country—nor poſt more honorable, more glorious, than Commander in Chief of a *Britiſh Fleet!*

The fleets were cautious, cunning, and ſhy, for a few days; *i. e.* I mean, the French were afraid of us—At length, an engagement was brought on—an engagement novel, and ſomewhat ſingular in manner and conſequence. The two fleets ſeparated—one went to Breſt, the other to Plymouth—Providence favoured our commerce—ill fate attended that of the enemy—We were contented, we were diſcontented—in ſhort, we were ſtill Engliſhmen!

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

THE bill to diſcourage adultery, reflects great honor upon the learned biſhop: and, it is to be hoped will reduce the annual liſt of cuckolds.

The following appear to me to be cauſes of adultery.

1ſt Education.

2d Political marriage.

2d Bad conduct in huſbands.

4th No fear of public ſhame or puniſhment.

Education. The great inattention to firſt principles in this age is really criminal, in the higher ſtages of life, as well as in the lower. Real ſober virtue and theoretical morality are eſteemed pedantic, plebeian and unfaſhionable. To diſcourſe morally, and virtuouſly, with people of the *ton*, would diſplay a want of good breeding. It is juſt ſufficient to go to church now and then, merely to go thro'

thro' the manuel of religion. There is a looſeneſs, a licentiouſneſs of manners, really tending to the obſcene. There are a thouſand dangerous hints, dangerous motions, dangerous pretty little ſayings, which flatter beauty, feed vanity, and inſtill warm feelings. In ſhort, our females ſeem now a days to be bred for pantomime and comedy, and not for the virtuous, heavenly felicity of conjugal friendſhip and the endearing tender ſcenes of maternal duty.

Political Marriage. This happens every day. It is a marriage contrary to every idea I am able to form of love and friendſhip. It is an inverſion of nature, mercenary, vicious, contemptible. To marry merely for the ſake of intereſt, riches and rank or title, diſplays ſuch a negation of virtue, and liberal principle, that we may ſafely aſſert, no conjugal happineſs can exiſt in ſuch a conjunction—it is all ſhew and damnable affectation.

Bad

Bad conduct in huſbands. After the honey-moon, there are huſbands who daily diminiſh in that attention ſo neceſſary to pleaſe a woman—that indeſcribable attention, which extends to a thouſand little things; ſo that here jealouſly commences—here the bitter ſeeds of ſorrow are ſown. The huſband thence proceeds in vice by gradation, and becomes an abſolute criminal—he gets drunk—keeps company with other women—creatures of infamy—in ſhort, becomes a brute, a loathſome carcaſe—nauſeous by intemperance, and rotten by diſeaſe——can we be ſurprized if ſuch a man is a cuckold?—by no means.

No fear of public ſhame. Here I confine myſelf to women who have tranſgreſſed without any cauſe on the part of the huſband. In this country there are no puniſhments adequate to the foul crime of adultery. I look upon an adultereſs in ſuch a light of infamy and deteſtation,

tion, that I would almoſt give my voice for her being baniſhed from all virtuous intercourſe, marked with the iron of diſgrace, and turned adrift upon the world. This, I ſhould be apt to do in the heat of paſſion—in cooler moments, I would act with more humanity, more delicacy—ſeeing the delinquent is already ſomewhat puniſhed by remorſe—and (if any ſtill remains) her Honour ſtabbed, by the contempt of the good and virtuous. However, it is neceſſary there ſhould be ſome mode of public ſhame inſtituted. I think the lady of a Peer, ſhould be brought up before the houſe in full aſſembly, and there ſtand in a particular dreſs, while ſhe receives ſentence and reprimand from a biſhop. The lady of a Commoner, in like manner, ſhould be produced before the houſe of commons; and the wife of a Citizen, ſhould appear in church before the congregation.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM